California GARDEN

MAY-JUNE 2000 Volume 91 No. 3 $1.50

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

MAY 4-SEPT. 10
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM traveling exhibition "The Dinosaurs of Jurassic Park: the Lost World". More than 40 skeletons. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. 619/232-3821. Fee.

May 5-7
CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. "Sage & Songbirds Festival and Garden Tours." Self-guided tours of eight home-gardens in Alpine. $10. Also, on **May 7**, a guided VIP Garden Tour, transportation provided. $35. See article "Thousands of Butterflies." 619/445-7675.

May 6
★**San Diego Floral Association Library** open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. **Members** of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

MAY 7
★**FLOWER ARRANGERS GUILD OF SAN DIEGO** Show "As We Like It," part of Buds 'n Blooms Floral Fiesta. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 11
SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL SOCIETY meeting includes presentation of proposed Park changes, by representative of San Diego Zoo. Question and Answer period. All are welcome. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. 7:30 p.m. Free.

May 13
TEMECULA VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY 6th Annual Rose & Art Show. Rose competition, seminars, art show, plant and product sales. 12:30-4:30 p.m. Temecula Comm. Rec. Ctr., 30875 Rancho Vista Road, Temecula. Free, including parking. 909/694-8968.

May 13
IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO 25th Anniversary events begin 2:00 p.m. **Ticket necessary and reservation required, $65 ticket for entire day, including dinner**. 858/270-5795. About 4:00 p.m., floral demonstration by the **45th Headmaster Sen'ei Ikenobo of the Ikenobo Ikebana Society**. Floral viewing, dinner, and entertainment, 7:00 p.m. Shelter Pointe Hotel and Marina, 1551 Shelter Island Drive.

May 13-14
SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY Annual Mother's Day Show "Around the World in Epi Days." Sale, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Show, Sunday 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 13-14
THE HUNTINGTON 3rd Annual Orchid Festival. Exhibits, sales, workshops, educational displays. Afternoon Tea (reservations 626/683-8131). 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. General Admission. 626/405-2100.

May 16
★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Class on how to construct and decorate a bird feeder or birdhouse from a gourd. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104. Materials provided. $20 members, $25 nonmembers, 619/298-5182 or 232-5762.

May 20
CUYAMACA COLLEGE Spring Garden Festival, "Sculpture in the Garden" theme. Plant sales, speakers, displays, art/sculpture, childrens' activities, food. 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, just off Jamacha Road, Rancho San Diego. Free. 619/660-4262.

May 20
★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Library will be open. See May 6 for details.

May 20-21
SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY 29th Annual Show and Sale "Geraniums 2000" Programs, demonstrations, plant sale. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 21
THE HUNTINGTON 26th Annual Plant Sale. Thousands of rare and exotic plants.10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Admission to sale only is Free. 626/405-2100.

May 27
SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Garden Tour. Fallbrook, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., one-acre garden of temperate tropicals and subtropicals; and a large garden featuring cactus, succulents, drought tolerant.
Noon-3:30 p.m., Valley Center, "Pikake Gardens," a nine-acre site. $15, $18-nonmember. Send check made out to SDHS, sase to Jackie McGee, 1137 Via Buena Vista, San Marcos CA 92069.

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Manuscripts are invited. Deadlines are the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. All manuscripts and illustrations will be handled carefully, but we cannot assume responsibility for their safety. Submissions must be double spaced and/or on a computer disk from IBM or compatible, in WordPerfect 5.1. DOS. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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VOLUME 91 NUMBER 3

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

MAY-JUNE 2000

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COVER DRAWING of *Lavatera assurgentiflora* (tree mallow) by Cherie Ann Gossett

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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[Horticultural Calendar, continued from page 66]

May 27-28

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK 22nd Annual Bromeliad Plant Show and Sale. Competition, workshops, potting and mounting demonstrations. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 31

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Wednesday bus tour to Norton Simon Museum and Garden. Also seventy-seven-year-old San Gabriel Nursery. Lunch on your own in Pasadena. $35 members, $38 nonmembers. 858/277-5004 or 619/232-5762.

June 3

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Library open. See May 6 for details.

June 3-4

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS 4th Annual Herb Festival. Speakers, herb-related crafts, refreshments, tours. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Free with admission. 760/436-3036.

June 3-4

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY Annual Show. One of largest exhibits of cactus and succulents in the US. Sale, advice on culture. Sat. noon-5:00 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 9-10

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB Gardening Consultant Course II. Lawns, vegetables, plant diseases and pests, container gardening. Registration deadline, May 26. $40 includes lunch both days. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Barbara Watzke, P O Box 1524, Valley Center CA 92082.

June 11

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY (Daylily) Show and Sale. exhibits, drawing, sale. Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado. Free.

June 15-July 4

2000 DEL MAR FAIR Flower & Garden Show "Dream Gardens of California." 24-hour information line, 858/793-5555.

June 15

2000 DEL MAR FAIR Opening Day Breakfast, includes lecture by Ed Lindemann, preview of Flower & Garden Show. 8:00 a.m. $25. Other weekdays, for groups of 20 or more, preview, guided tour, continental breakfast. 8:00 a.m. $10 each. 858/794-1096.

June 17

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Library open. For details, see May 6.

June 17

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Saturday bus tour to Getty Museum and Garden, lunch on your own at museum. $28 members, $31 non. 858/277-5004 or 619/232-5762.

June 17

THE HUNTINGTON Bamboo Festival and Symposium. Festival 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., free with admission. Symposium 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., $65. 626/405-2160. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Other information 626/405-2141.

June 17-18

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND SHADE PLANT SOCIETY Fuchsia Show. Exhibits and plant sale. Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

July 1-2

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY Show and Sale. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

July 1-2

THE HUNTINGTON National Cactus and Succulent Show. Over 1000 award-winning plants. Hundreds of plants on sale. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2141. General Admission.

ONGOING EVENTS

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Garden Tours & Events. 9AM-5PM.760/436-3036 or check Web site www.qbgardens.com

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9AM. Call 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON "Tea & Tour" Package. Tues. and Wed. mornings 10:30AM Sept. thru May and 9AM June thru Aug. $24, advance reservation required. 626/405-2126.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden Landscape Seminar and docent-led garden tour. 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30AM. 619/660-0614. Free.

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for JULY/AUG issue is May 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

BUDS 'n BLOOMS — A Floral Fiesta in Balboa Park

May 2000, beautiful Balboa Park highlights its horticultural treasures during this month-long series of floral-themed events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (SELECTED)

May 6, Saturday & May 7, Sunday	
9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	San Diego Museum of Art "Art Alive," at Municipal Gymnasium (near the Aerospace Museum and Pan American Plaza parking lot). Amateur and professional floral designers interpret works on display from top San Diego art galleries.
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	"Art Mart Floral Fantasy" Federal Building Lawn
May 6, Saturday	Spanish Village Art Center "A Garden of Flowers," live music and garden art show: free
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Alcazar Garden, book signing and floral photography tips from Andrew Hudson, author of *The Magic of Balboa Park* & *PhotoSecrets* books.
May 7	
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Flower Arrangers Guild of San Diego Show, Casa del Prado, free
May 13, Saturday	Kids' Day, floral themed fun-FREE
May 13, Saturday noon-4:00 p.m. & May 14, Sunday	
12:00-4:00 p.m.	San Diego Epiphyllum Society Show, Casa del Prado, room 101, free
May 20, Saturday	
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Garden Information Day, booths on The Prado from garden clubs of the San Diego Botanical Foundation, San Diego Floral Association, and Master Gardeners.
	San Diego Historical Society Museum, workshop on metal weaving and braiding floral-themed jewelry — $25 materials fee
May 20-21 Sat & Sun	
9:00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.	"Art Mart Floral Fantasy," Federal Building Lawn
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	San Diego Geranium Society Show, Casa del Prado, room 101, free
May 27 Saturday	
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Glorious Garlic Day, on The Prado, a mini-festival that will demonstrate the international power and punch of this aromatic plant
May 27-28 Sat & Sun	
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park Show, Casa del Prado, room 101, Free
AT THE ZOO	
May 6-14	"Ask the Horticulture Experts," free with admission

Other events, too numerous to mention, at the Zoo.

SOME *FICUS* TREES IN BALBOA PARK

BY ROSALEEN COX

ALMOST EVERYONE IS FAMILIAR with the large Moreton Bay fig just north of the Natural History Museum. This *Ficus macrophylla* (1) is about sixty feet tall with a spread of over one hundred feet. It was planted for the Panama-California Exposition of 1915, as were many other large trees in the El Prado area. It is also known as the Australian banyan. Ficus trees are members of the Moraceae or mulberry family.

Few people are aware of the columnar form of this tree, *F. macrophylla* ssp. *columnaris* (2). This can be found at the northeast corner of the Botanical Lath House. One of several in Balboa Park, it has a tall columnar trunk, rather than the spreading, multi-trunk of the more common form. Called Lord Howe Island banyan, it is native to Lord Howe Island off the coast of Australia. The other two are on the west side of Zoro Garden near the street level.

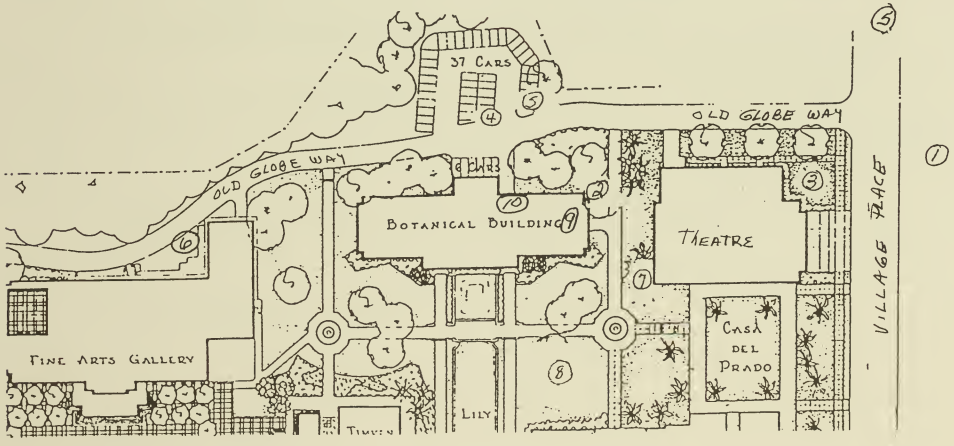
Across the street from the Moreton Bay fig near the northeast corner of the Casa del Prado Theatre is *Ficus elastica* (3). It is native to India and Malaysia and can grow to a height of one hundred feet, this one is probably half that size. Commonly known as the india rubber tree because of the milky sap exuded from a bark. Another ficus in this area is *Ficus sycomorus* (4). It is located in the parking island along Old Globe Way at the Lath House parking lot. Called Egyptian sycamore, it is native to North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula and is the sycamore referred to in the bible. Both the *F. elastica* and *F. sycomorus* are the original specimens of these species in the Park. Seedlings were propagated by the Balboa Park Nursery from these two species and in 1996 both were planted near Juniper St. and Balboa Dr. just east of Laurel St.

Another large ficus is this area, known as Zulu fig, is *Ficus lutea* (5), formerly known as *Ficus nekbudu*. Native to Cape Verde Islands, Tropical and Southern Africa, and Madagascar, it can grow to seventy feet. There are two in this area. There is one across the driveway from *F. sycomorus* but not looking its best just now. The other one, at the southwest corner and just outside the Spanish Village area, is an attractive specimen. Both are about thirty-five feet in height.

The *Ficus* just mentioned all have large leathery leaves that are ovate, oblong, or elliptic. Frequently you can recognize a tree as a ficus by the gray bark, obtrusive roots, and leathery leaves but are uncertain just which ficus it is. There are three other ficus trees of interest close by with unusual shaped leaves that make them easier to identify.

Just north of the San Diego Museum of Art is *Ficus religiosa* (6), called either the bo tree or peepul. Linnaeus gave it the species name because it was sacred to the people of India. Buddhists believe that Buddha himself meditated while sitting under this species of fig. This is one of the easiest *Ficus*es to recognize with rather triangular leaves, the apex of which is drawn out into a slender tip, sometimes referred to as a "drip tip."

Ficus lyrata (7), known as fiddle-leaf fig, is one of



the easier *Ficus*es to recognize, as the large leaves do actually bear a resemblance to a fiddle. It is native to tropical West Africa. This one is at the southwest corner of the Casa del Prado Theatre. It is quite a height, forty feet, but it is a bit hard to see the entire tree as there are both *Schefflera* and tall fan palms in front of it. It is one of the largest leaved figs with leaves to fifteen inches.

The third ficus with unusual leaves is *Ficus maclellandii* (8). I find little information about this ficus. The earliest mention is in *Ficus: the Exotic Species*, published by University of California-Riverside in 1969. There it is referred to under *Ficus benjamina*. The latest reference is the American Gardening Guides' *Indoor Gardening*, 1995, compiled by the Chicago Botanic Garden, which lists *Ficus mclealandii* (note the spelling of the species name) with the cultivar 'Alli' as an excellent choice for large indoor spaces, saying it can grow to ten feet. 'Alli' is a trade mark of Aloha Foliage, Homestead, Florida. *F. maclellandii* has long willow-like leaves. This specimen had been held for some years in the Balboa Park Nursery before planting outside last year. It is about eight feet high. Recently one of the co-dominant leaders was taken out to strengthen the tree. It will be interesting to see how this tree fares in an outdoor setting. Not only this ficus but *F. elastica* and *F. lyrata* are very popular as potted house plants.

These trees can be seen by walking west on Old Globe Way from the Moreton Bay fig as far as the Museum of Art, returning and walking around the Casa del Prado Theatre Building. By turning on the pathway between the Theatre and the Lath House, the *Ficus lyrata* will be on your left at the southwest corner of the Theatre and directly in front of you will be the newly planted *Ficus mclellandii*, just beyond the small fountain, where it replaced a *F. macrocarpa* ssp. *columnaris*.

The Botanical Lath House contains a number of ficus, perhaps the two outstanding ones are *Ficus aspera* and *Ficus Auriculata*. *F. aspera* (9), called clown fig or mosaic fig, has wonderfully variegated leaves. Descriptions say the leaves are mottled or speckled ivory-white on dark green. But your first impression is almost of a frosted tree, there is that much white. The eight-inch leaves are of several shades of green. Some patterns are geometric, or tile-shaped, explaining the common name mosaic. The small fruit is colorful too, green with pink and cream stripes. Our tree is about eight feet in height and is native to South Pacific Islands. *F. auriculata* (10), formerly *F. roxburghii*, is a tall tree whose leaves are clustered near the top. The leaves are oval to round, about fifteen inches across, and a rich green. Look for new leaves near the top, which are a mahogany red. The most interesting feature is the large fruit that grows in clusters on the trunk. This tree almost reaches the roof of the lath house and the leaves are high above you, but the figs are at eye level. It is native to the Himalayas and South China.

If you enter the Lath House by the eastern door, the *F. auriculata* will be along the north wall almost directly in front of you, and the *F. aspera* will be to your left in the container-bed near the east wall of the building. The Botanical Lath House is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, except Thursdays. □

Rosaleen Cox is a retired cost engineer, who is the SDFA Librarian and a docent at Quail Botanical Gardens.

Pictured left to right are *Ficus lyrata*, *F. maclellandii*, and *F. religiosa*. Illustrates leaf shape only; not in proportion.

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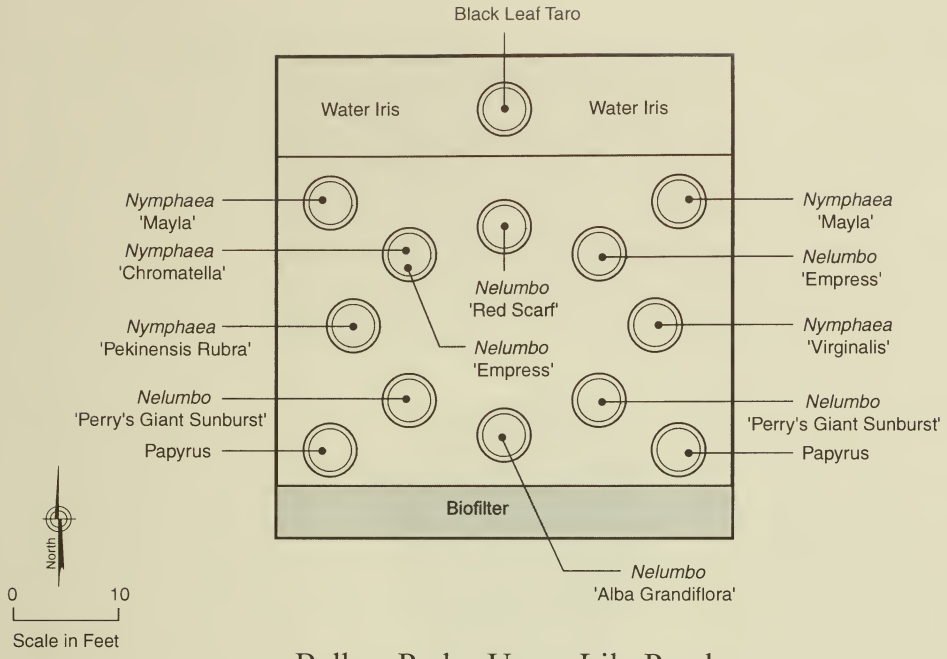


Balboa Park - Upper Lily Pond

THE LAKES OF THE FLOWERS, PART II

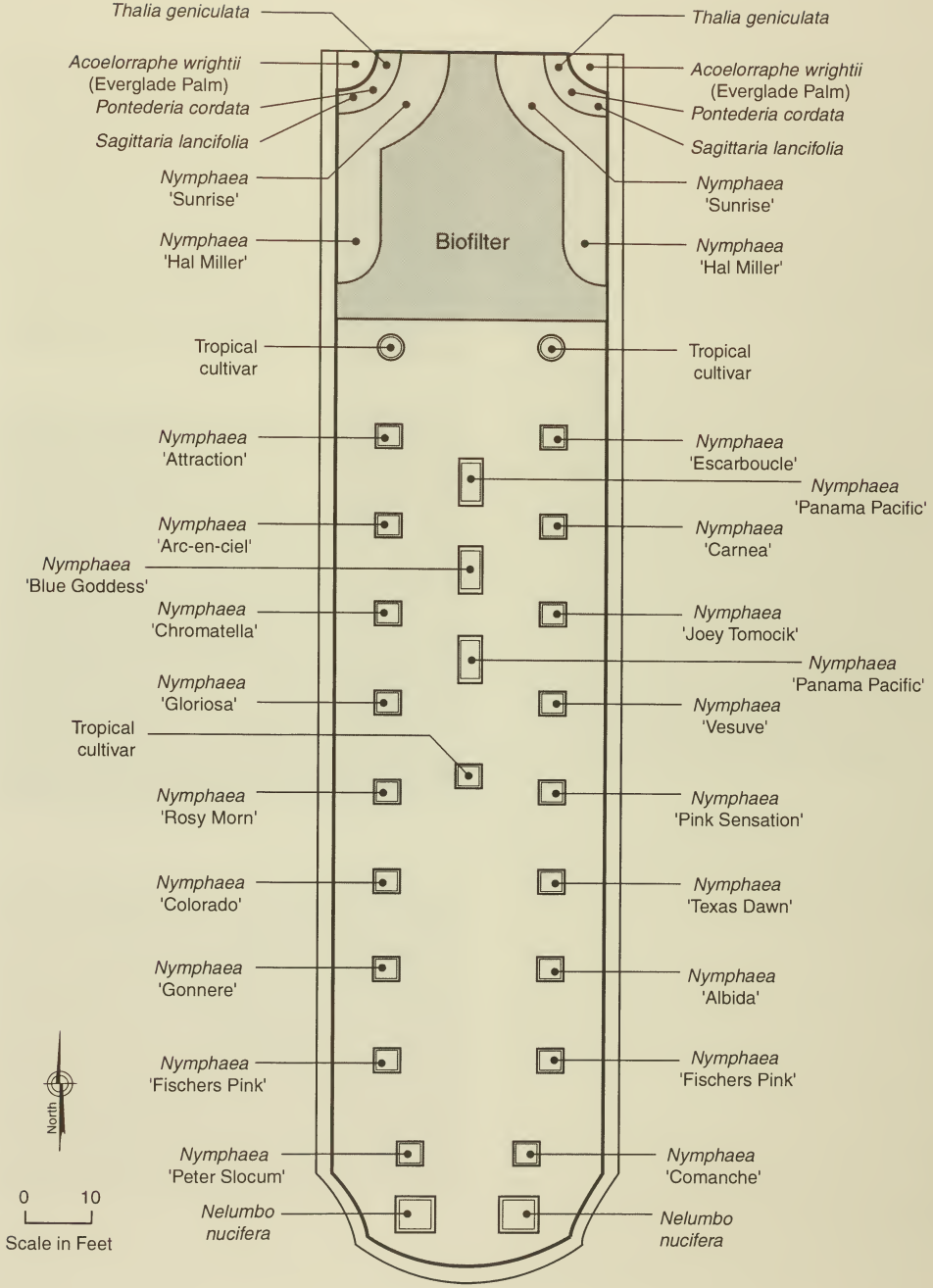
BY PETER DARGUSCH

Nymphaea 'Albida', white hardy

THE LILY PONDS IN Balboa Park come alive in the spring, ending a brief winter dormancy as temperatures rise and days grow longer. As new leaves emerge, this is a good time to begin feeding water lilies, lotuses, and other aquatic plants in the ponds.

Slow release fertilizer tablets, such as 10-20-10 AgSafe Aquatic-Tabs are easy to use and effective for this purpose. To stimulate plant growth, nitrogen content up to ten percent is ideal, with greater nitrogen percentages possibly contributing to algae problems or plant injury due to nitrogen burn. High phosphorus ratio promotes flowering and seed development. Potassium and micronutrients aid plant metabolism and vigor. Water lilies and lotuses are heavy feeders and should be fertilized several times during the growing season.

Spring is also a good time to divide crowded



Balboa Park - Lower Lily Pond

(continued from page 72)

rhizomes and plant new lilies. Topsoil or topsoil with a high clay content can be used for new plantings. Hardy lilies that grow laterally should be planted at an angle with the growing tips left uncovered and pointed in the direction of the desired growth. Tropical lilies can be planted in the center of the container.

Planting depths in the Balboa Park ponds are approximately one half to one foot deep, though lilies can be grown in deeper water. The newly planted tuber or rhizome can be held in place with plant staples or rocks until new roots anchor the plants. A layer of coarse sand can be added to help keep the soil in place.

Lilies and lotuses do best planted in still water. Full sun to near full sun conditions stimulate maximum blooms. Plants should be groomed periodically as they grow by removing fading flowers and yellowing leaves. This benefits the health, appearance, and blossom production of the lilies.

Pond water temperatures fluctuate with ambient temperatures. In Balboa Park, pond temperatures may dip into the fifties (degrees Fahrenheit) in winter, and move into the eighties in summer. From late February to early April this year, pond temperatures ranged from 62°F to 73°F. As of April, the oxygen level was good, the pH was 8.0, and ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate levels measured zero parts per million. These readings are favorable and indicate a healthy pond environment and biofilter. Elevated ammonia and nitrite levels may affect fish populations adversely; while nitrates are utilized by plants and algae in the ponds. Water lily culture and pond chemistry involve many interrelated factors and variables — a combination that makes each pond unique.

There are also many interesting non-aquatic plants growing near the ponds. Notably, there are two clumps of paurotis palms (*Acoelorraphe wrightii* [or *Acoelorrhaphe*]) planted on each side of the balustrades at the edge of the lower Lily Pond. These unusual palms, sometimes referred to as "Everglade palms," are native to the Florida Everglades and the Caribbean Islands. They are not often grown in California. The fan-shaped leaves are green on top and silver beneath.

The view of the Botanical Building with the Lily Pond in the foreground is one of the most photographed scenes in Balboa Park. It is also a favorite location for artists. There are often several artists set up around the Lily Pond each day capturing its serene beauty with oils, watercolors, or pencils. The art and photographs of *Las Lagunas de las Flores* (The Lakes of the Flowers) may have spread this image of Balboa Park throughout the world. □

Peter Dargusch is a City of San Diego Park and Recreation Dept. gardener who takes care of the lily ponds in Balboa Park. Photographs by the author. Pond drawings by Peter Dargusch; final diagrams prepared by Trent Robertson.

Nymphaea 'Peter Slocum', pink hardy

Nymphaea 'Joey Tomocik', yellow hardy

Nelumbo, lotus seed pods

VIREYAS, PART II

BY WILLIAM MOYNIER

CULTURAL GUIDELINES FOR VIREYA *RHODODENDRON*S

LOCATION

Vireyas are much more heat and drought tolerant than other types of rhododendrons, apparently because of their tropical origin. For best flower bud set, give Vireyas as much sun as they will take without, or with only minor, leaf burning. Early to mid-day sun is best: partial to full shade in the afternoons is usually desirable. Vireyas must be protected from freezing temperatures in the winter; damage is likely for most varieties at sustained temperatures below 30 to 32°F.

They thrive both in raised beds (for good drainage) in the ground and as container plants. In fact, some root crowding in containers seems to aid in bud set. Container plants may be grown outdoors or in greenhouses or may be treated as houseplants. If treated as houseplants, give them considerable time outdoors during the frost-free months.

PLANTING MIX

Vireyas must be grown in a highly aerated planting mix—an absolute must! A mix that has proven generally satisfactory for both ground and container-grown plants is: ⅓ each of coarse peat moss (fine peat will not do), coarse grade perlite (¼-inch granules) and small size conifer bark. This mix may break down and need replacement or renovation in 3 to 5 years. Other experimental mixes using either medium-size bark and/or ½- to ¾-inch lava rock in combination with the above, are looking promising as longer-lasting mixes. These coarser mixes are particularly recommended for container-grown plants with less vigorous root systems (at the bottom and around the perimeter of the root ball) to assure the rapid drainage needed to prevent root rot problems. Although Vireyas, along with other types of rhododendrons, do very well under acid soil/water conditions, they also thrive under neutral to mildly alkaline conditions.

WATERING

Vireyas should be allowed to dry out almost completely between waterings. Then water moderately; never set a container in a pan of water! Prolonged over-dampness can leave plants susceptible to root rot problems. This is particularly true during the warmer seasons of the year. Prolonged dampness due to cooler season rains does not seem to be detrimental to their well-being (with proper drainage).

For ground beds, a good summer practice is to water the immediate root systems and leave unwatered areas between plants so that excess moisture in the root areas can migrate away. Use of the proper planting mix and attention to these watering guidelines should assure vigorous, trouble-free root systems typical of well-grown Vireyas.

FERTILIZING

Many Vireyas will leaf burn if overfertilized, especially the larger leafed, larger flowered types. It is therefore better to fertilize sparingly more frequently rather than heavily less often. Schedules that have proven satisfactory are: 1) a 50-50 dry mix of an all-organic (for slow nutrient release) commercial camellia-azalea fertilizer and cottonseed meal at the rate of ½ teaspoon per gallon container 4 or 5 times during spring through late summer, 2) liquid fish at the rate of ½ tablespoon per gallon or equal parts of Miracid and Rapid Grow at the rate of ¼ teaspoon per gallon every other watering from early spring through early fall. For both schedules, add a little chelated iron or nitrogen-iron compound (carefully!) when required, to eliminate chlorosis or to produce deeper green foliage.

PINCHING

Commencing at the youngest age possible, pinch all vegetative tip growth as desired to produce a more compact spreading plant. (Many Vireyas tend to be very

leggy unless pinched.) Flower buds normally start setting in 3 to 5 years for cutting grown plants. To be sure you are not pinching flower buds, wait until the vegetative tips are clearly identifiable as new leaves before pinching. □

SOME SOURCES FOR VIREYAS

The Bovees Nursery, 1737 SW Coronado, Portland OR 97219, 503/244-9341 or 800/435-9250 — e-mail - bovees@teleport.com www.bovees.com — Catalog $2.00 (Mail Order)

Equatorial Plant Company, 7 Gray Lane, Barnard CastleGray Co, Durham, England DL128PK — Telephone/FAX 01833 690519

Mark Jury, Tikorangi, RD 43, Waitara North Taranaki, New Zealand — (Mail Order)

Rhododendron Species Foundation, P O Box 3798 Federal Way WA 98063 — telephone 253/838-4646 (Mail Order)

Glendoick Gardens (Kenneth and Peter Cox) Glendoick, Perth, Scotland, UK PH2 7NS, — telephone 073 886 205 — www.glendoick.com — (Mail Order)

May have Vireyas now or in the future. Mission Hills Nursery — www.missionhillsnursery.com — 619/295-2808

and

Walter Andersen Nursery — 619/224-8271

Vireya Seed Exchange. World Wide. Bill Moyles, 4243 Norton Ave. Oakland CA 94602 — e-mail wmoyles@pacbell.net

William Moynier is an engineer who worked on the Lunar Surveyor. When he retired from Hughes Electronics, he also closed his backyard nursery, Vireya Specialty Nursery. He was a founding member of the Southern California Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, and he still produces plants and new hybrids for the Chapter and is ever producing new hybrids, which are named and registered with the ARS and the Royal Horticultural Society. Photograph by James Jaeger.

OUR COVER PLANT

LAVATERA ASSURGENTIFLORA

BY JEANINE DE HART

LAVATERA ASSURGENTIFLORA IS A beautiful large shrub or small tree that blooms every day of the year. It is native to Santa Barbara, Santa Catalina, and Anacapa Islands (1), but has naturalized everywhere it has been planted. The pink flowers are most attractive and similar in structure to hibiscus, which is in the same family, Malvaceae.

Lavatera (tree mallow) is available at native plant nurseries and probably at other nurseries as well. It is also easy to grow from seed. A plant grown from seed will attain its adult size of 8-10 feet within a year. It has been used as a windbreak in San Diego County.

There is a lavatera psyllid that is always on mine. They do no damage other than make small raised spots on the leaves. The insect is food for larger insects and birds so best left alone. There are no other pests that bother *Lavatera* when it is mature. When it is young, rabbits love it!

This is a short-lived plant that will produce enough seedlings on its own to keep you in mature ones forever. Its life expectancy is 5-10 years although some of mine are 10+ and still blooming.

Since this plant comes from Islands, it would not be expected to be cold tolerant, but I successfully grew one in Ramona.

This plant was named for two Swiss brothers named Lavater. They were both physicians and naturalists. (2)

The leaves are maple like and evergreen although individual leaves are short lived. This is quite a handsome shrub for a large yard or in the back of a smaller one. □

(1) McMinn, Howard E. *An Illustrated Manual of California Shrubs*, 1939

(2) Jepson, Willis Linn 1925 edition, *A Manual of Flowering Plants of California*.

Jeanine De Hart, at age fifty, graduated from SDSU with a degree in botany in order to pursue a career in California Native Plants. Her book, "Propagation Secrets for California Native Plants" is available for $6.00, including postage and handling. Send request to 237 Seeman Drive, Encinitas CA 92024. Tree mallow photograph by Marianne Truby.

WATER FACTS FOR GARDENERS

BY GINA MOLISE

Where does our water come from?

San Diego gardeners know better than anyone that we live in a semi-arid region subject to drought. Most of the water we use in our gardens and homes has traveled hundreds of miles from Northern California and the Colorado River Basin. In fact, 75 to 95 percent of San Diego County's water is imported through the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct and the 444-mile California Aqueduct. The San Diego County Water Authority delivers this imported water to local water agencies and cities through five large-diameter pipelines that traverse the county north to south.

How do we use our water?

In San Diego County, households use more water than business, industry and agriculture combined. Approximately half the water piped to homes is used outdoors to irrigate the lawns, shrubs, and flowers that have transformed native chaparral into a gardener's paradise. Conservation experts advise us that our gardens and landscaped areas are where we will find the greatest opportunities for water savings.

Major Water Systems

SAN DIEGO COUNTY IS AT THE END OF THE AQUEDUCTS THAT DELIVER IMPORTED WATER

San Diego County Is conservation-smart

Clearly, water is a precious commodity in our region, and imported water is essential to our way of life. This fact hit home during the statewide drought of 1987-1992, when imported water deliveries to the county were reduced by 30 percent and further cutbacks to 50 percent were threatened. Even though local rainfall was normal for three years out of the five-year drought, reservoir levels in the county dropped dramatically because less Northern California water was delivered to the reservoirs.

Fortunately, residents heeded water conservation messages from the Water Authority and local water agencies, and cut back significantly on their water use. The drought helped create a water conservation ethic that persists to this day; we are still using less water per person than we did when the drought began.

Expanding our water resources

The Water Authority works with water agencies in the county to expand the use of reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and desalination of local groundwater. In addition, the Water Authority is preparing for a natural disaster by constructing the Emergency Storage Project. This is a system of reservoirs, pipelines and other facilities that will work together to store and move water around the county in the event an extended drought, earthquake, or flooding interrupts the delivery of imported water.

Besides safeguarding and making the most of the water we have, the Water Authority is diversifying its supply of imported water. A recent agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District in Imperial County will enable the Water Authority to begin purchasing water from IID by 2003. The Imperial Irrigation District will sell to the Water Authority up to 200,000 acre-feet of water per year that its agricultural customers have conserved through extraordinary conservation measures. This is enough water to supply the needs of 400,000 families for a year.

Conservation in the absence of drought

Late-winter snow fall and rains in Northern California may have put to rest our concerns about a potential drought this year, but the need to conserve water continues. The Water Authority continually promotes water conservation and other measures that reduce our dependence on imported water. Incentive programs encourage businesses and residents to install water-efficient devices. Free water surveys tutor water

A THICK LAYER OF MULCH HELPS SOIL RETAIN MOISTURE.

customers on how to save water, and free classes in English or Spanish train landscape professionals on irrigation efficiency.

CONSERVATION TIPS FOR LOCAL GARDENERS

Keep your irrigation system tuned up
Monitor and keep all parts of your irrigation system in proper working order. Leaks and inefficient irrigation can waste large volumes of water if not detected and corrected promptly.

Mulch, mulch, mulch!
Keep two to four inches of mulch under your shrubs and plants throughout the year to slow evaporation loss, reapplying at least once a year.

Water well in spring
Research shows that many gardeners wait too long to increase irrigation in spring. By March, plants enter a period of accelerated growth and need more water to establish deep roots that will seek out moisture and tolerate heat stress later in the summer.

Cut back sooner in fall
In September, as the days begin to shorten and plant growth slows, start cutting back gradually on watering times. During winter rains, stop irrigating altogether. If the winter is dry, maintain a fall irrigation schedule until March.

Group plants based on water needs
Establish separate irrigation zones for plants grouped together according to their water needs. This practice, called hydrozoning, saves water and avoids over- or underwatering that can be damaging to plants.

The San Diego County Water Authority is a public agency serving the San Diego region as a wholesale supplier of water imported from the Colorado River and Northern California. The Water Authority works through its twenty-three member agencies to provide a safe, reliable water supply to more than 2.8 million San Diego County residents.

For additional water conservation information, please contact Vickie Driver in the Water Resources Department of the Water Authority, at 619/682-4152.

Gina Molise is a third-generation Californian and a Public Affairs Representative at the San Diego County Water Authority.

WHEN IS A DROUGHT NOT A DROUGHT!

BY MORT BRIGADIER

LAST YEAR MARKED SAN Diego's worst drought in over a hundred years but with the excitement over the Millennium, no one seemed to notice, or to care that only a little over a half-inch of rain was recorded at Lindbergh Field during the entire year.

This was less than a tenth of what we expected, but there were no headlines screaming, "Drought!!!" There was no appeal to "Save water," "use only what you need."

In fact, not too many people realized that we had a real drought. It was not a general topic of conversation as it was during the drought in 1987. The Union Tribune finally broke the news on 4 Feb., 2000 that the drought was real. ("Reservoirs shrink under arid skies," Page B1).

Just how serious is the lack of rain as we face the millennium with more new arrivals needing to shower, wash their cars, water their lawns, fill their pools and hot tubs? The Water Authority assures us that we will have enough water.

Where does the Water Authority obtain this bountiful supply of water? They buy it, of course. And, who pays for the additional water at a higher cost? You do, my friends, you always do! That is why we need to plant natives, to drip irrigate, to "hardscape," and to conserve. We need a water saving program strong enough to bite the offenders where it hurts the most.

When is a drought not a drought? When an entire year passes with only a trace of rain, and when no one, not the City Council, not the Board of Supervisors, not a newspaper, not a single TV station, not the "wouldbees" nor the "wannabees" ever say the "D" word.

Friends! Neighbors! Countrymen! This is an alert! Pass the word! The drought is real! Shower with a friend!□

Mort Brigadier majored in horticulture at Cuyamaca College and has an MBA in management. He is a UCCE Master Gardener.

THOUSANDS OF BUTTERFLIES—AND GARDENING IDEAS—HIGHLIGHT ALPINE FESTIVAL

BY MAUREEN AUSTIN

IN JANUARY, *BETTER HOMES & GARDENS* magazine recognized the east county town of Alpine for its "butterfly friendliness."

In March, *Sunset* magazine named Alpine as the West's "Most Bird-Friendly" community.

In May, garden and nature lovers from everywhere will have an opportunity to experience Alpine's "natural" hospitality, as the town hosts its Third Annual "Sage & Songbirds Festival & Garden Tours." The event celebrates Alpine's designation as the Nation's First Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

Festivities include three days of garden tours, and a two-day festival with educational seminars, a garden mart-craft fair, live music, a magician, jugglers, puppet show, entertainment, fashion show, and much more. Special highlights will again be the release of over 3,000 live butterflies.

The festival takes place in downtown Alpine, with primary site at Alpine Community Center and satellite sites throughout town. A horse-drawn wagon and Cloud 9 Shuttle will transport visitors to their destinations.

Eight beautiful, Alpine private home gardens will be open for self-guided tours the weekend of May 5-7, offering a plethora of ideas and platforms for appreciation as each garden is uniquely different from the others. The gardens do share one commonality—each attracts winged garden wildlife (hummingbirds, butterflies, and songbirds).

Garden tourists will leisurely stroll through each habitat, accompanied by drifting butterflies and darting hummingbirds, with background music of area songbirds and, at several sites, choruses of croaking frogs.

Garden Tour tickets, $10 per person, are valid for the entire weekend, and visitors may spend as long as they care to in each garden. Tourists may see all eight gardens in one day, or a few each of the three days.

New this year is a VIP Garden Tour, Sun. May 7, with bus transportation to all eight sites and two knowledgeable guides. A limited number of tickets is available, and includes a champagne reception at Victoria Rock Bed & Breakfast, where hundreds of hummingbirds dart and dine daily. Cost for the VIP Garden Tour is $35 per person. Participants will have a lunch break (lunch on their own) and opportunity to witness the butterfly release.

Kick-off for the Festival is at 7:30 a.m. May 5 at JK Corral in historic, downtown Alpine. Loren Nancarrow will be on-hand to sign copies of his new book, "Dead Daisies Make Me Crazy," All are welcome, and admission is free.

A variety of free seminars are also scheduled through out the weekend. Programs include "Landscape Styles & Themes for San Diego County," "Designing with Native Plants," "Organic Rose Care,"Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat," "Coffee, Tea or Worms?," and "Making Your Own Tabletop Water Fountain," along with discussions on bees, creating a backyard pond, backyard bird identification, and more.

Representatives from local wildlife rehabilitation groups will also be on hand, with live hummingbirds and a variety of raptors, including an owl, haw, and golden eagle.

An evening event, May 6, finds guests in a gorgeous private estate, alongside waterfalls and a large pond, relaxing in their lawn chairs to the Latin jazz sounds of Bruce Cameron and the Latin All-Stars. A fiesta fajita dinner is included in ticket price of $35 per couple.

The Sage & Songbirds Festival & Garden Tours is presented by CHIRP for Garden Wildlife, Inc., a nonprofit educational organization, and all proceeds benefit habitat education programs. For additional information, please contact CHIRP at 619/445-7675, visit online at www.chirp.org — or send a self-address, stamped envelope to CHIRP,
P O Box 532-F, Alpine CA 91903.□

Maureen Austin is executive director of CHIRP for Garden Wildlife and project coordinator for "Sage & Songbirds Festival & Garden Tours."

www.missionhillsnursery.com

Mission Hills Nursery
1525 Fort Stockton Drive
San Diego CA 92103
619/295-2808

Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Helen La Gamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER only when soil is dry.

TO REPOT only if necessary.

TO TAKE the time to groom your violets by removing the lower row of leaves and all flower stems.

TO SEE that you have proper soil: light, porous and with good drainage.

TO PUT all plants on wicks using a 3½ to 4 cup reservoir.

TO HAVE 12 to 14 hours of light daily.

TO HAVE proper spacing—provide room for good air circulation.

TO USE good fertilizer according to the instruction at each watering.

BEGONIAS
Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH tuberous begonias for signs of mildew, correct with dust and spray.

TO CHECK cane type begonias and cut back if needed.

TO WATCH for insects, wash off with water.

TO FINISH repotting where needed; use a light porous mixture.

TO FEED plants with a well-balanced all-purpose fertilizer.

TO WATER as needed—keep moist but *not wet*.

TO CHECK tuberous type for drainage; repot to larger container if needed, add fresh soil. Stake any tall stems.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DEVELOP a watering schedule, but avoid overwatering, especially the pines.

TO PRUNE all trees to promote growth and shape. Tip prune junipers and pines using finger pruning instead of cutting tools that cause brown tips.

TO SPRAY for insects as needed, using either a systemic or a mild surface insecticide.

TO SHAPE deciduous trees. Defoliate the deciduous trees in June. They may be transplanted afterwards.

TO CONTROL any mildew that may appear; use sulfur or a spray.

TO FERTILIZE trees with an organic fertilizer. Do not overfeed the pines.

TO COMPLETE the repotting of all trees that have not been repotted, except for the flowering trees that have not completed their blooming cycle.

TO PLACE trees to receive optimal sun, but do not place in full sun after 11:00AM to prevent sunburning.

TO ROTATE trees often to maintain proper shape.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE the outdoor plants during warm months only. Plants in greenhouse can be fertilized year-round.

TO USE a water-soluble fertilizer—one high in acid, using only ½ the recommended strength on label.

TO CUT new offshoots to make new plants during the summer when weather is warm. Offshoots must be ⅓ to ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean at all times by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves—this helps to keep plants healthy.

TO CHECK plants for scale. If needed treat with Cygon 2-E according to directions on the bottle. If scale remains give same treatment in two weeks.

TO GIVE plants plenty of air circulation and provide humidity by watering the ground around plants.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants, as needed. When pots get noticeably light in weight, water them.

TO FERTILIZE for growth and flowering. Allow the winter growers to go dormant and rest before feeding.

TO PROTECT the plants from brilliant sun. Shade cloth can keep plants from being bleached out on very hot days.

TO CHECK any additions to your collection for insect pests. Keep them away from rest of plants. If pests or disease are noticed, treat at once.

TO REPOT those plants needing it; use a well-draining mix. A good rule of thumb is to allow an

inch between plant and the pot.

TO REPOT seedlings when they have doubled or tripled in size. If they have been in the same mix for over six months, it is a good idea to repot.

TO CHECK entire collection for any pests or disease; if so, treat at once to avoid an infestation.

CAMELLIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO START a feeding program when they finish blooming. Use an acid-type fertilizer: cottonseed meal, camellia food, or liquid fish.

TO BE SURE to water well the day before feeding, never fertilize a dry plant.

TO TRANSPLANT those plants that have not started their new growth.

TO REPOT those plants that have outgrown their pots. Move to one size larger pot per time.

TO MULCH plants. This helps to keep the soil uniformly moist and the weeds controlled.

TO PRUNE out unwanted new growth; shape and thin out center.

TO SPRAY for insects as they appear; use Cygon for looper worms and aphids. Use a miticide if mites appear later.

TO ESTABLISH and maintain a uniform watering routine. Plants should never be allowed to go dry.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED with low nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10), either dry or liquid.

TO SPRAY weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips, and aphids. Try a systemic; if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.

TO WATER when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and often.

TO PLANT smaller varieties and give regular care for growing.

TO BE SURE to draw the soil up around the plants as they grow.

TO PINCH out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE plants to shape—take cuttings after flowering.

TO PUT out snail bait and watch for other pests.

TO REMOVE wilted flowers by cutting about ¾″ out from leaf unless you desire seed to form.

TO TAKE CARE in watering, do *NOT* allow to dry out; keep soil damp, but *NOT* wet.

TO GIVE plants a balanced feeding after blooming season.

TO STAKE long spindly growth.

TO PROTECT foliage from the hot summer sun. Maintain plants in filtered sunlight.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE dead fronds.

TO PLANT spores.

TO USE a high-nitrogen fertilizer liquid or pellets twice a month.

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale if necessary.

TO WATER thoroughly; maintain humidity by watering surrounding areas.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO IRRIGATE thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning ⅓ of the distance from the trunk to the tree's drip line and extending out beyond the drip line a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least 2 feet deep (about 3 inches of water on a loam soil).

TO REMOVE grass and weeds from soil under a tree's canopy.

TO APPLY a layer of organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from the trunk to protect trees from crown rot. Complete thinning apples, pears and stone fruit after "June drop."

TO REMOVE any suckers growing from rootstock.

TO WASH trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew and pests like aphids, whiteflies and spider mites.

TO SPRAY walnuts with carbaryl (Sevin) when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control coddling moth larvae (wormy nuts).

FUCHSIAS

William Selby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PINCH plants for shape and bushy growth.

TO CHANGE to 5-10-10 fertilizer to hasten maturity.

TO WATCH for insects and pests. Spray or use a systemic eradicator; use amount recommended by manufacturer or less, do *NOT* use an oil spray.

TO BE SURE to water an hour or more prior to application of an insecticide.

TO CONTROL snails, use metaldehyde or other bait according to directions.

TO KEEP plants clean of debris and spent blooms.

TO TURN baskets regularly so they do not become one-sided.

TO WATCH plants on hot or windy days. Do *NOT* allow them to dry out; keep damp but *NOT* WET.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage for the plants, both in containers and the landscape. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.

TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended strength. Use often enough to keep plants growing well. Long term pellets may be worked into the soil or potting mix.

TO CONTINUE pest control and disease prevention, using all products according to the manufacturer's directions.

TO SELECTIVELY prune and pinch ivies and zonals for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals and scenteds because this is their flowering season.

TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.

TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.

TO ROTATE pots on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.

TO ENJOY your plants at the peak of their season.

HERBS
John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE a cup of tea. Use fresh green spring herbs, comfrey, sage, mint.

TO HARVEST salad green herbs, dandelion, salad burnet, french sorrel, dill, basil.

TO FINISH any heavy pruning before the long hot dry summer gets strong.

TO FILL in any bare areas with summer growing herbs, basil, cayenne, parsley, valerian, fever few.

TO MULCH with organic compost.

TO PLAN to attend the annual herb festival at Quail Botanical Garden in June.

IRIS
San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ALLOW cut surfaces of the rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting or give a light dusting of soil sulfur. May be placed in vitamin B solution for awhile before planting.

TO HAVE beds prepared for planting and transplanting. Work in humus, soil sulfur, and some decomposed manure.

TO WATCH for aphids. May use a systemic insecticide.

TO FEED spurias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.

TO KEEP watering all iris that are still blooming.

TO FEED Siberians after blooming with a balanced fertilizer to assure bloom for next year.

TO FEED Louisianas with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.

TO FEED Japanese iris with camellia food; add to water in which they are growing.

NATIVES
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CUT back on the watering. As soon as the rain stops, our natives begin to prepare for the long summer drought. Their roots no longer absorb large quantities of water.

TO CONTINUE to bait for snails or, if you rather not use poison, pick them off and drown them. An alternative method is to spread bran. They are attracted to it. It swells up inside them and kills without poison. If rains have continued into March the snails will still be around in May!

TO CHECK your yard for places that need planting in the fall. Also be aware of problem areas. That is, areas where drainage is a problem. Other problem spots might be areas that drain too fast due to very sandy soil. Shady areas have their particular requirements too. Is it wet shade or dry shade? The plants you select need to be correct for the area.

TO ENCOURAGE beneficial insects by not using pesticides. The mealy bug destroyer will take care of that pesky scale insect. Lady bug beetle larvae will help control aphids and the list goes on. poison.

TO BE vigilant as to weed control. Weeds haven't gone dormant yet and will out compete the natives for water and nutrients.

TO CHECK Ceanothus for evidence of stem gall moth (*Periploca ceanothiella*). The signs of this critter will be a thickening around the buds. The cure is a systemic and controlling watering as not to have off season flushed of growth.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO OBSERVE the weather—be prepared to shade areas of heavy sunlight, use shade cloth or liquid shading compound on glass or overhead.

TO MAINTAIN pest control against red spider, mealy

bugs, and scale; consider getting some ladybugs or praying mantis egg cases—available at some orchid nurseries in the area.

TO AVOID sudden temperature changes or drafts around plants. Spray and mist on hot dry days; mist seedlings and small plants—mist in the morning and afternoon, plants should be dry by nightfall.

TO REMEMBER that plants need good air circulation and proper light.

***Culture of Different Genera*:**

Cymbidium: Light to partial shade to full sun, protect flowers from sunburn. Temperature 50°–70°optimum. Humidity 40–70%. Potting media; epiphyte-tree fern, fir bark, non-organic mixes or osmunda. New fertilizers have been developed and should be available.

***Cattleya, Laelia, Brassavola* and Hybrid:** Light 2400–3600 foot candles. Temperature 69°–70° optimum. Media for potting: fir bark, tree fern, osmunda, gravel, perlite or charcoal. Fertilizer depends on type of media used to grow your plants.

***Phalaenopsis and Hybrid*:** Light 900–1000 foot candles. Shade to adjust and meet requirements. Temperature 65°–85°, humidity 50–75%; remember the higher the temperature, the more circulation of air is required.

***Vanda, Vandopsis, Ascocentrum, Aerides* and Hybrid:** Light 2000-3600 foot candles. Temperature 60°-70° humidity 49-75%. Potting media: tree fern, fir bark, charcoal, lava rock, or a combination of these. Fertilizer depends on media used. Vandas are voracious feeders and growers when right combination is used.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRACTICE the habit of breaking off the spent blooms of your roses as you enjoy a stroll through your rose garden. You are removing unwanted material and encouraging the plant to produce new growth at a lower part of the stem/cane.

TO CUT blooms at their peak and SHARE with friends and neighbors. Use sharp prunners and cut above a set of leaves to encourage new growth for your next crop of blooms.

TO PROTECT the new basals that were beginning to grow from the bud union during the early bloom. Avoid letting these grow into a large candelabra. Remove side buds, allowing one bloom and then cut back to an eye emanating from a high five-leaflet. Treat this growth with care. It is your new wood for next year's blossoms.

TO CONTINUE to maintain a well-balanced feeding program and keep ahead of the mites and mildew by washing off your bushes in early morning.

TO MAINTAIN a vigilant watch for RUST on the undersides of your foliage! It is imperative that you maintain a clean area around bushes to control rust as there is no known control. It spreads quickly and removing infected materials and keeping other herbaceous away from your roses will best minimize the threat.

TO WATER your roses according to their needs and your location, usually at least twice a week. A well-defined basin in the soil at the drip line of each bush is ideal and also appropriate to scatter in fertilizer.

TO DISCARD varieties and bushes that fail in your garden and replace with new bushes. Avoid being disappointed with replacements, do thorough research by visiting gardens in your area to observe plants and blooms. Heavy petalled blooms that produce for the warmer areas of the area will seldom open properly for the cooler coastal areas and the colors achieved at the coast will be pale and washed out in the inner areas.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT warm-season crops which require warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumber, gourd, luffa, melons, and squash), peanuts, peppers, sunflower, tomatoes and tender herbs.

TO PLANT pumpkins in late June for Halloween. Stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well-ventilated area to cure.

TO APPLY nitrogen fertilizer to warm-season crops to promote growth. Fertilize when: corn is 6 inches tall and 24 inches tall; cucurbits when plants begin to produce runners; eggplant, peppers and tomatoes when plants begin to bloom and again a month later; beans for a month after planting or when runners start to climb. For every 10 feet of row, apply ⅓–½ cup of ammonium sulfate or ¼–⅓ cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants, then irrigate thoroughly.

TO CHECK plants for pests. Dust tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are a foot tall to control russet mites (older leaves die prematurely). Apply sulfur with a dust blower when wind is calm. Wrap paper collars around the stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect them from cutworms.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: eggplant, sweet potato, tomato — African daisy (*Arctotis stoechadifolia),* celosia, centaurea, coreopsis, marigolds, nicotiana, petunia, salpiglossis, salvia, scabiosa, sunflower, and tithonia.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans, corn, cucumbers, endive, leaf lettuce, melons, okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips (in May), peppers, radish, squash (winter and summer), turnips — ageratum, amaranthus, balsum, coleus, cosmos, dahlias, four o'clocks, mignonette, morning glories, nasturtiums, portulaca, strawflowers, sweet alyssum, Virginia stock (*Malcomia maritima*), and zinnias. □

PRIVATE ALPINE "THEME PARK" IS HOST TO UNUSUAL WINGED VISITORS ... AND JAZZ CONCERT

BY MAUREEN AUSTIN

PICTURE A BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED theme park—but instead of throngs of noisy people, hear the sweet songs of a variety of birds, choruses of croaking frogs and soothing sounds of water running throughout. And instead of traditional, sterile plants, envision ceanothus, penstemon, grevillea, sage butterfly bushes and manzanita . . . This is the habitat created by Tom and Eileen Neal of Alpine—with a little help from their friends, as they are quick to point out—and will be on the tours during the Alpine Sage & Songbirds Festival, May 5-7.

In every corner of this 2¾-acre habitat, colorful annuals, bulbs, and perennials entice nectar-seeking birds and butterflies, as well as tantalizing the human eye. Songbirds have a smorgasbord from which to select a resting or nesting site—including birch, willow, cedar, Canary and Allepo pine, liquidambar, California sycamore, poplar, cottonwood and oak. Deodar Cedar trees, imported in root ball form from Oregon on refrigerated trucks, now also thrive in this Alpine garden.

No habitat is complete without a water source, and this one has water running throughout—creeks, streams and waterfalls all spilling into a ¼-acre pond. The finished water works incorporate both rock found on the site and an estimated several thousand tons of imported rock. (Tom Neal admits that while planning the waterscape, he had a "Tom Sawyer vision" of a creek where he and others could cruise throughout the property on inner tubes. It is doubtful that an inner tube (or human) could survive the rock creeks and streams, but hopping frogs have found it to be a happy habitat. (Tom's fantasy, however, is fulfilled in the tiled water slide that spills into his backyard swimming pool.)

The Neals have extended their winged wildlife welcome a step beyond the usual birds and butterflies, putting out nine nest boxes specifically for migrating wood ducks. And the ducks do come, year after year, following the tradition started by Tom eight years ago when he mail-ordered and hatched twelve wood duck eggs.

Last year, the Neals estimate fifty to sixty baby wood ducks were successfully raised on their property. Females lay sixteen eggs each, Tome reports, but they have a low survival rate, due to such predation as crows. In addition, Eileen said, wood ducks sometimes find bees and possums competing for the nest boxes, creating an additional challenge. The Neals lend assistance by putting metal bands on trees to deter possum.

This unique habitat took 9 months to create, and is now 9 years old.

The Neal's garden is one of eight habitats that will be featured on the Sage & Songbirds Festival Garden Tours, May 5-7 Ticket cost of $10 per person provides admission to all eight sites, and visitors may stroll through each garden at their leisure.

This garden is also the site of a Twilight Waterfront Jazz Concert and Fiesta Dinner, set for May 6. Advance ticket price of $30/couple or $18/person includes dinner and the concert, featuring popular favorite Bruce Cameron and the Latin All-Stars, with vocalist Coral Thuet. Guests should bring a lawn chair to relax alongside the pond while enjoying the concert. The Festival celebrates Alpine's recognition by the National Wildlife Federation as First Community Habitat in the United States. Proceeds benefit habitat education programs. For additional information, please call the CHIRP Habitat Hut at 619/445-7675.□

MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN MEANDERING AT SDSU©

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

THERE I WAS IN the year 1991, a middle-aged student at San Diego State University. Like numerous times before, I was passing through what is known as the freshman quad, an unremarkable area covered with cement sidewalks and tired grass. A few benches idled at the edges of the quad but I didn't sit. There was nothing to hold me there; it was just a place to walk through to get somewhere else.

Time has a sneaky way of passing by, and before I knew it, here I was in the year 2000, having long since graduated from college, hearing about a "Mediterranean Garden" at SDSU. In gardening lingo, "mediterranean" refers to climates with cool wet winters and hot dry summers. Since San Diego's climate falls into that category, and since I'm always on the lookout for planting ideas, I decided to visit the place. So here I was at SDSU again, approaching the quad, expecting to see some plants and perhaps a bench or two.

Whoa nellie!

The former coma-inducing grass and cement-studded area had turned into an acre of beautiful and unique plants, ear-tickling bird song, pleasant outdoor seating, and a handsome gargantuan fountain. Students were dotted about the area, sitting on comfortable benches—studying, talking, thinking, eating, resting, and just plain living.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY TOO

The creators of the Mediterranean Garden are professors Michael Simpson of Biology, Pat Abbott of Geology, and Barbara Fredrich of Geography; SDSU gardener Tim Moore; and environmental design alumni Anita Green and Bill Bulkley. The seed of an idea for a garden that would reflect SDSU mediterranean-style architecture was first planted by Mark Daniels in the 1930s. However, the idea lay dormant until only a few years ago, when the above-mentioned group of enthusiastic individuals cultivated and nurtured the idea until it bore fruit in the form of the appealing garden in front of me.

The plantings consist of regional groupings of species from the five major mediterranean ecosystems of the world: Coastal California, Central Chile, Mediterranean Basin, South African Cape Region, and Southwest/Southern Australia. The plants serve as a botanical collection and as reference tools for SDSU biology courses.

LIVING BASEBALLS AND THE HORNS OF COWS

Poking up from an area studded with boulders, and representing the South African Cape Region, are many engaging and fantastic succulents. Among the most interesting:

Fairy washboard (*Haworthia limifolia*) - a pretty dark-green rosette about 4″ in diameter. Each leaf was covered by tiny rills, and looked like something that Tinker Bell might use to do her laundry.

Cow horn (*Euphorbia grandicornus*) - a combative-looking assemblage of convoluted limbs that seems to wait for its next victim.

Living baseball (*Euphorbia obesa*) - a small seam-studded globe-shaped concoction, which looked like a baseball that had seen better days. It peered out at me from between an eclectic collection of colorful rocks.

Trichodiadema bulbosum - a petite succulent with purple flowers atop tiny smooth trunk-like stems. The effect was that of a tiny tree drawn by Dr. Seuss.

Euphorbia esculenta - a succulent comprised of

happy-looking little worm-shaped structures.

KANGAROOS PAWS AND TREES NAMED TEA

Included in the Australian section of the garden are: New Zealand tea tree (*Leptospermum scoparium*) - an evergreen shrub with needlelike leaves and small flowers. The explorer Captain Cook brewed a tea from the leaves of this species and then ordered his crew to drink it to prevent scurvy. Taste of the tea was nothing to write home about, supposedly.

Kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos flavidus* and *Anigozanthos* x 'Kalbarri Sunburst') - evergreen perennials that display fuzzy kangaroo paw-shaped flowers. Hummingbirds like the flower nectar.

Melaleuca, banksia, and acacia trees - hardy, drought-tolerant plants that do exceptionally well in Southern California gardens.

SEE THE THRIFT

Whatever you call it—sea thrift, thrift, or sea pink—*Armeria maritima* is charming, and is native to Central Chile. This well-known ground cover with round little pink flower heads complemented larger plant varieties nearby and made a very pretty picture.

CALIFORNIA DREAMY

Natives of the coastal region of California were represented by the following: the hearty-looking chalk leaf dudleya (*Dudleya pulverulenta*); a bright red-flowering fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*); a spiny-leaved coastal agave (*Agave shawii*); a young coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*); the bright yellow-flowered San Diego sunflower (*Viguiera laciniata*); the aptly-named bladderpod (*Cleome isomeris*); hummingbird-approved California fuchsia (*Zauschneria californica*); and several types of colorful sages (*Salvia* spp.)

California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) seemed to pop up all over the place. In his book *East of Eden*, John Steinbeck describes the flowers of this wonderful California native: "These . . . are of a burning color—not orange, not gold, but if pure gold were liquid and could raise a cream, that golden cream might be like the color of the poppies."

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN BEAUTIES

Tucked among the various plantings and wood chips in the Mediterranean Basin section, there was a small patio with benches. I plopped down on a bench near a *Lavatera bicolor* with its pink-purple blooms. A hummingbird flitted among the flowers. In front of me a mourning dove perused the wood chips in search of seeds and such. Sparrows stared up at me. A largish dark bird sat in a small tree nearby, and other birds sang in the distance.

What a change: bird-attracting, waterwise, money-saving perennials and shrubs in place of nondescript, water-guzzling grass.

Also in the Mediterranean Basin section of the garden were many dependable, drought-tolerant staples of California landscaping: statice (*Limonium perezii*); heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*); iris (*Iris* spp.); rockrose (*Cistus* spp.); rosemary (*Rosmarinus* spp.); yarrow (*Achillea* spp.); and lavender (*Lavandula* spp.).

AN ALTERNATIVE TO PROZAC

In the center of the Mediterranean garden stands a massive red-brown circular fountain. Water rushes over its edges into the pool beneath, creating the soothing, comforting sound of a sylvan waterfall.

Nearby, blue tile-topped benches and tables invite seating and eating.

Close to the fountain grow plantings of coreopsis, erigeron, penstemon, larkspur, and marguerite.

CONSERVATION INSPIRATION

Perhaps the uniqueness and beauty of this garden will encourage students to learn more about plants, and how they contribute to—indeed, make possible—human existence on this earth.

Individuals and groups are invited to visit the garden. In addition, volunteers to help research, select, and position plants are needed. For more information, contact Mike Simpson at 619-594-4479.

GRADUATION DAY

The freshman quad, that simple square of grass and sidewalk I remember from my student days, has certainly made a great stride forward; it has evolved into a wonderful garden that now comforts, inspires, and instructs students and faculty members alike.

The freshman quad has finally graduated.

With honors. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife designer for Animated Gardens.

NORTON SIMON MUSEUM
WEDNESDAY 31 MAY 2000

Today we will stop at the San Gabriel Nursery (established in 1923). It is one of the largest and most complete garden centers in Southern California specializing in rare and unusual plants, bonsai, perennials, and shrubs.

Lunch on your own in Pasadena, then a two-block stroll to the Norton Simon Museum.

This museum is known internationally as one of the most remarkable art collections in the world. Many of the greatest masterpieces in the history of art are here such as Bassano's "Flight into Egypt," Goya's "St. Jerome," Rosseau's "Exotic Landscape," Monet's "Autumn Seascape," Zubaran's "Still Life with Lemons, Oranges and a Rose," and the many gorgeous sculptures by Degas. Downstairs, there are galleries devoted to sculpture from Southeast Asia and the Indian Subcontinent.

In the garden, the long, rectangular reflecting pool is now an irregularly-shaped lily pond surrounded by shaded winding paths. Around the pond are plantings of mature trees, calla lilies, tree fern, cycads, cannas, angel's trumpets, bulbs, and the garden sculptures. A garden for sauntering.

If you have any questions, Call Ann Waters at 858/277-5004.

NORTON SIMON MUSEUM
WEDNESDAY 31 MAY 2000

☐ $35.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
☐ $38.00 Nonmembers

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1650 El Prado #105
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PICK-UPS

☐**Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Ctr, La Mesa 6:30AM**
☐**Mission Valley on Camino del Este south of B/A 7:00AM**
☐**Oceanside/Park Ride #44, Moreno St. & Vista Way 7:30AM**

J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM
SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2000

Our tour today is the once-a-year Getty visit for the year 2000. A writer for *Sunset* magazine chose David Hockney's "Pearblossom Highway" as a must-see. To me, this painting has sentimental as well as artistic meaning; I'm sure it will to anyone who has crossed the Tehachapis from Bakersfield through Mohave, Palmdale, and Pearblossom to Highway 15. Thomas Hoving, director of New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art for ten years, feels the panel showing "Fishermen in a Venician Lagoon" (1490-1500) by Vittorio Carpacci is one of the museum's premier possessions.

These are but two of the paintings in the fabulous collection.

In addition, the gardens will be in their prime — the multitude of flowering perennials is breathtaking. So, whether you elect to see the gardens, the gardens and the galleries, or only the art collection, you will have spent your day surrounded by beauty.

Their are kiosks on the premises as well as a cafeteria and a restaurant (reservations required), where you may have lunch (on your own). Any questions? Call Ann Waters, 858/277-5004.

J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM
SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2000

☐ $28.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
☐ $31.00 Nonmembers

Lunch is on your own at the Museum

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Mail to San Diego Floral Association
1650 El Prado #105
San Diego, California 92101-1622

Please include a stamped/addressed envelope

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone Number:

PICK-UPS

☐**Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Ctr, La Mesa 7:30AM**
☐**Mission Valley on Camino del Este south of B/A 8:00AM**
☐**Oceanside/Park Ride #44, Moreno St. & Vista Way 8:30AM**

Gleanings . . .

FLOWER SHOWS . . .

William Penn's vision was to make Philadelphia a "greene countrie towne." (He was the founder of the city.) He designed the city with parks and urban gardens. In 1827 the nation's first garden club was founded, *Pennsylvania Horticultural Society* (PHS). PHS hosted the first flower show in 1829 in the Masonic Hall, a building 69 feet by 82 feet. Twenty-five PHS members exhibited native and exotic plants, which included peonies from China, rubber trees from India, and sugar cane from the West Indies.

San Diego's first flower show was held on May 29, 1907. San Diego Floral Association had been formed in April, and this first big project was to show the residents of San Diego what beautiful plants could grow here and to encourage everyone to grow them. Plants, cuttings, and seeds were given away.

At the earliest flower shows in San Diego only plants and cut flowers and flowering branches were exhibited. Prizes and certificates were awarded for the best of each kind. Next there were competitions for the most attractive basket display of a particular flower. The competition in 1917 included a *Best Table Decoration*. By 1919 the class *Best Jardiner Arrangement* had been added. By 1923 the class *Arranged Bowl or Vase* was added and flower arrangements had become a regular part of flower shows. Today in addition to competition for best plants and arrangements many of our flower shows have theme gardens, plant collections, demonstrations, educational exhibits, and lectures.

And, PHS is still giving flower shows in Philadelphia and San Diego Floral is still giving shows in San Diego. The next SDFA show will be on May 7th—a show of flower arrangements given by the talented members of the Arrangers Guild.

BIOENGINEERING

There has been a great deal of publicity in recent months concerning bioengineered-biotech, food crops. At the present time, there is much controversy about corn. Even though the corn looks and tastes the same, the altered corn contains a protein that can cause the intestines of the brown worm borer to explode. (This worm unless controlled is harmful to corn.) Though extensive tests have shown that the biotech corn does not harm animals or humans, there has been much resistance to it. The added protein breaks down quickly in the digestive system and it is impossible to determine whether an animal has eaten engineered corn. There is no test of meat that can indicate if biotech corn has ever been eaten.

In Europe, biotech crops are referred to as *Frankenstein Foods* and breweries that use corn and other manufacturers that use corn syrup refuse to use biotech corn. (In Europe, 75% of the American corn crop is ingested as stock feed.) It is a "scary new world" and because most people do not understand genetically modified food plants they fear them. The United States does not require labeling of foods whose chemistry is essentially unchanged solely on the basis of genetic origin of plant products or of plant products included in the production of the food. But some manufacturers are advertising that they are not using genetically altered crops. At the present time, biotech seeds are not sold to home gardeners in seed packets, only in bulk to commercial growers.

ORGANIC

The acreage devoted to growing organic crops has increased more than 100% in the last few years. The production of organic eggs and milk has increased even more to meet rising consumer demands. During the 1990s organic farming has become one of the fastest growing segments of U. S. agriculture. Although there is increased demand and production of plants, eggs, and milk cannot fill orders, organic gardening is still a very small percent of commercial gardening.

BEDDING PLANTS

The first human hand to touch that new pack of bedding plants may be yours. Everything is automated from beginning to end. A machine puts out the packs in trays. The packs are automatically filled with soil. Next a seed is "plopped in" and the prepared tray is lined up on a greenhouse bench. Sunlight, water, heat if needed are supplied automatically—computercontrolled. The trays are even moved around several times in the greenhouse during the growing period. The trays may be humanly loaded onto the trucks and carried into the store. But, the first hand to touch the plant is yours!

Book Reviews

A CONTEMPLATION UPON FLOWERS: Garden Plants in Myth and Literature
Bobby J. Ward
Portland, Timber Press, 1999, 447 pages, 78 b&w illustrations, 6″ x 9″, hardcover, $24.95

From "acanthus" to "zinnia," plants have inspired poetry and stories since the beginning of time. The observation of flowers has led to insights and interpretations of life that were expressed in literature, much of which the author, a retired environmental scientist, presents in this treasury of floral inspiration. Each plant gets from two to five or six pages of extensive explanations of the origins of its botanical name (usually from the Greek), its common name and horticultural genealogy, plus a discussion of whatever myths, folklore, poems, and stories of which it is a part. The author categorizes his selections as coming from myths, religion, history, and/or poetic associations. Most chapters are illustrated with classic line drawings.

Following the entries for nearly ninety flowers, Ward provides a Calendar for Flowers, a chronology of bloom time related to church festival and holy personages and introduces such Saints of the Spade as St. Phocas of Sinope, St. Swithin, Santa Rosa de Santa Maria, the Rose of Lima and others associated with gardens and gardening. A detailed bibliography is also included.

Rich with literary references, this book would be useful for public speakers or writers, but anyone who appreciates plants will enjoy dipping into it for simple reading pleasure.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

TULIPA: A Photographer's Botanical
Photographs by Christopher Blake, Text by William Lemmers
New York, Artisan, 1999, 296 pages, 350 color photos, 10½″ x 12¼″, hardcover, $65

Portraits of over 300 varieties of tulips, presented in the order of their growing and flowering seasons through the year, are reason enough to consider this gorgeous volume as the last word in tulips. Presented in botanical illustration style, each tulip stands alone against a plain background, allowing the viewer to observe and appreciate every detail of leaf, stem, and flower.

Blake confesses that it was a sudden and unexpected addition to tulips that lead him into this project. He was inspired to seek out bulb expert Lemmers, who guided his selection of photo subjects and contributed a wealth of historical information for each. There is a complete description of two hundred more tulips, whose portraits are not included but whose stories are equally fascinating. An essay on tulips by Michael Pollan, noted garden writer, explores the mystery of tulips and their unique appeal.

Local readers who may consider tulips beyond their climatic range will be happy to see *T. clusiana*, in several varieties, one of which does grow and naturalize in our area. It is among the Early Flowering species, which also include Kaufmannians, Forsterianas, single Earlies, and Double Earlies. The wide scope of tulip species and varieties is impressive in its diversity as well as in numbers. The book concludes with a discussion of new introductions developed by hybridizing and a list of cultivars that have evolved through mutations; in some cases, there are sports of sports, indicated by additional indentation.

There is no doubt that tulip lore is as fascinating as the plant itself and they are both beautifully presented in this elegant "coffee table" volume.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE NATURAL GARDEN BOOK: Gardening in Harmony with Nature
Peter Harper with Jeremy Light and Chris Madsen
North Pomfret, Vt., Gaia Books Ltd., Distributed by Trafalgar Square Publishing, 1999, 287 pages, 134 color photos, 8¼″ x 9½″, softcover, $24.95

Originally published in 1994, this is a handsome compendium of absolutely everything there is to know about the why and how of gardening. It approaches the making of a garden as a reflection of the world view of the gardener, encouraging an attitude of living in nature, rather than striving to control it. Considering a garden as just a small part of the planet, or biosphere, the authors provide a broad spectrum of information about how earth, air, water, and light combine to create a life producing ecosystem that is ours to maintain, or destroy.

Starting at the very beginning of garden planning and using a kind of Socratic method of discourse, the author throws out questions regarding the readers' expectations for the garden, its physical and climatic conditions and other specific characteristics that will influence decision-making. Is it to be a garden that is useful or productive? resourceful and/or water efficient? healing? or for the encouragement of wildlife? None of these aspects are mutually exclusive, but indicate the potential aspects of Gaia gardening, which is defined as one of mixed elements and combined functions.

The second half of the book delves into the particulars of gardening in urban areas, mountains, coastal regions, woodlands, and wetlands; the needs for gardening in cool and arid climates are also discussed. The final section is a thorough introduction to all kinds of natural gardening techniques, from

shaping the land and improving the soil to recycling almost everything, from old garden implements and tires to household waste of all kinds.

It is an amazing amount of information, embellished with attractive colored pencil drawings and diagrams as well as glorious photographs. Although oriented toward gardening in the British Isles, this book would be ideal for new gardeners who want to relate to the natural world and seek more than just a decorative setting for their home.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

GARDENING WITH OLD ROSES
John Scarman
North Pomfret, Vt., Trafalgar Square Publishing, 1999, 160 pages, 200 color pages, 8½" x 10", softcover, $24

In his introduction the author declares his intent to share with others his enthusiasm and fascination about old roses. He has carried out his intent with a thorough description of all aspects of old roses. The book is beautifully illustrated and mostly could be helpful to those attempting to identify roses they may have or know of. The interest in old roses has been accelerated by the David Austin roses that have been marketed in recent years. To be knowledgeable about old roses, a thorough knowledge of the history of the rose is most important. John Scarman has presented this history in a most interesting manner in his chapter: Directory of Old Roses. He notes that though there are over 2,000 varieties still grown commercially and in private collections, the differences between many of them are so marginal that even "experts can disagree". Other chapters include his work in designing with old roses, and planting with old roses. This last one includes a listing of companion plants.

While the selection of varieties is purely personal, the pictures and description of growth that are included will be helpful. The material about soil, planting, and pests and diseases contains valuable information that would apply to all forms of roses. Though it may include material common to many publications you will find in it a wonderful refresher and even possibly learn something you may not know. The pictures of pests and diseases are excellent and are quite representative of those we know in our area.

These roses inspired the David Austin roses and now the new Romantica roses coming from France.

Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby

PENSTEMONS
Robert Nold
Portland, Timber Press, 307 pages, 43 color photos, 12 botanical paintings, 18 b&w line drawings, 6" x 9", hardcover, $29.95

Surprisingly, to me, the genus *Penstemon* is the largest genus of flowering plants endemic to North America. It is native to every state in the continental USA, also to many parts of Canada and Mexico. Most of the genera are native to the Southwest. *Penstemon* is a Nearctic genus (temperate and arctic zones in North America and Greenland). *Penstemon frutescens* was the only penstemon found in Asia, before being reclassified from this genus to *Pennellianthus frutescens*.

Robert Nold gardens in the Denver area and primarily is a rock gardener. In the chapter on cultivation he discusses dry-land gardening (xeriscape), Mediterranean gardening, and traditional gardening besides rock gardening. But the emphasis of the book is on rock gardening, with or without the rocks. He defines scree (growing medium includes small stones) but does not recommend it. Penstemons thrive in dry conditions and so perhaps could be used more in this area than they usually are.

The main chapter of the book is that containing species descriptions: over two hundred fifty species and one hundred pages. This is followed by a small chapter on hybrids. He recommends plants from nurseries, as propagation from seed requires a cold period to break dormancy, and the seeds are very slow germinating. The color photos are very good, the setting usually shows a stony soil.

The recent book, 1998, *The Gardener's Guide to Growing Penstemons* (Timber Press) seems to me to have more helpful information on cultivation. If you were thinking of seriously growing penstemons then you would want to own both books.

Reviewed by R. Cox

FORCING, ETC.: The Indoor Gardeners' Guide to Bringing Bulbs, Branches & Houseplants into Bloom
Katherine Whiteside, with photos by Richard Felber
New York, Workman Publishing, 1999. 154 pages, 141 color photos, 9" x 9" hardcover, $24.95

Beautiful photographs and an easy read should be enough to lure anyone into trying their hands at working a little garden magic indoors. Unfortunately, most of the magic that the author describes so breezily takes place in Zone 7, where potted bulbs can chill outdoors for 12 weeks before being "forced" to early bloom indoors. An exception to this practice is made for "tender" bulbs from South Africa, South America, and the tropics. Here it is "reverse dormancy" that brings the bulbs to flower in the winter.

That said, it should be noted that the author mixes much common sense with her enthusiasm. The most relevant sections for Southern California readers would be those on houseplants and finding (which sometimes means recognizing) interesting containers. Most valuable is the final chapter on rooting from cuttings, a practice dear to all gardeners, indoors and out. Randomly mixed into the entire text are single "plant primers" featuring various plants and planting techniques.

Previously published in such design publications as *Vogue* and *House and Garden*, the author's high sense of style is expressed in her writing and the elegant photos that accompany it. This is a great gift book for friends in the colder climes or for anyone who relishes beauty.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

YEW & NON-YEW; Gardening for Horticultural Climbers by James Bartholomew has been reissued this time in softcover ($13.95) by Trafalgar Square Publishing. Reviewed in 1998 as a delightful, amusing, tongue-in-cheek description of the world of gardening, it's suitable as a gift or for your own enjoyment.

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619/232-5762, located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

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2000

June 20
October 17
5:45 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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Pres: Robert Hodges 234-8901

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Pres: Don Walker 760-630-7307
2nd Mon - 6:30 pm, except June
Satellite Wagering Facility
Del Mar Fairground, Jimmy Durante Blvd

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chr: Elma Garcia 858-672-9838
1st Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado,
Jan, May, Sept, Nov

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
Garden Develop: Pamela Homfelt 660-1684

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

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P. O. Box 2711 858-459-0316
La Jolla CA 92038-2711

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San Diego CA 92117-6802

GARDEN CLUBS:

ALPINE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Anne Pepler 659-9154
1st Fri - 10:00 am, Home of Members

BERNARDO GARDENERS
Pres: Marielle De Forge 858-487-0814
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Rancho Bernardo Library

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Kathy Taylor de Murillo 585-8770
2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor,
Sweetwater Road

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marilyn Foster 435-2335
4th Monday - 9:30 am, Winn Room,
Coronado Public Library

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mary Payette 420-6046
3rd Thu - 1:00 pm, Norman Park
Senior Center

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Pres: Linda Stanton 437-6132

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Linda Stanton 437-6132
4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: George Speer 760-749-9608
2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Co-Pres: Bernie Dennett 760-723-8519
Co-Pres: Betty Henry 858-731-0706

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
Chrm: Mrs. Randall Geddes 760-728-6291
2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Norma DeMart 466-9398
2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive,
La Mesa

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Presidential Board
3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J.Lutheran Church

LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Mrs. Kurt E. Bake
3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB
Pres: Nell McChesney 760-599-4815
3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community
College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Donna Knierim
4th Wed - 7:00 pm
Call for meeting information 295-2702

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Kay Harry 222-5207
2nd Wed - 10:00 am, St. Peters by the Sea
Lutheran Church, 1371 Sunset Cliffs Drive

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: "D.A." de Gomes 858-672-0158

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Jane Carlin 858-756-2310

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Joyce Zwemke 287-3424
4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Evalyn Rodgers 858-635-1557
4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Pat Miller 858-459-2039
4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian
Church, LJ

THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marilyn McGawn 760-941-7889
1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 660-2046

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: James H. Ard 858-274-6337
4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
LA JOLLA CHAPTER
2nd Tues - 10:00 am 858-672-7850

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland 276-4667

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Barbara E. Church 298-1535

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 429-6198

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Faye Shirley 858-754-0630
4th Mon - 11:00 am, United Methodist Church of Vista, 157 Lado de Loma

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Doris Smith 222-1294
2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Home of Members

PALOMAR BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Michael Ludwig 262-7535
2nd Sun - 1:30 pm, except May & Aug
Quail Gardens

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Thelma O'Reilly 670-0830
Last Sat - 10:30 am, Home of Members

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
Pres. Lit Phan
1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)
10:30 am, Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Information Telephone 699-8776
2nd Sun - 10:30 am, Casa del Prado
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
Pres: Robert Vitacco 469-3539
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Patti Parker 461-2950
4th Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Wed

NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Margaret Case 760-721-8422
4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building
Quail Gardens

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Tom Demerritt 858-270-5544
2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: Jay Vermilya 449-0945
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov through Apr ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: Kathy Payne 760-789-5790
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Sep thru May
Quail Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Phil Peck 491-9495
2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Bob Halley 858-272-1019
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Pres: Jose Gallego 697-4417
4th Thu - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Thu

FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANTS

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND SHADE PLANT SOCIETY
Pres: Richard Hubbell 443-3706
2nd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Cynthia Lohry 469-8936
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

HERB

THE HERB CLUB
Pres: Judy Dunning 579-0222
2nd Thu - 7:00 pm, Call for location

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Steven Rocha 760-788-1423
E-mail: srocha@pacbell.net
2nd Sun - 1:00 pm - Jan/Mar/May
Jun/Aug/Nov - Joslyn Sr Ctr, 18402 West Bernardo Drive, Rancho Bernardo

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188
1st Thu - 7:30 pm -
Canoga Park Women's Club,
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Cindy Burrascono 685-7321
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Sharon Smildens
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo Library (new), 2nd floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY
A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
Pres. Jerald Spencer 267-1670
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres. Fred Weber 982-9128
1st Tues - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Bernadette Mingus 858-278-4688
4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
Pres: Ted Higgins 443-4795
4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado, Room 104

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Jack Shoultz 440-4174
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Laura Berend&Steve Marvin 235-0004
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
Jan/Feb - 4th Mon

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES
Library 234-TREE
FAX 687-0151

WATER GARDEN

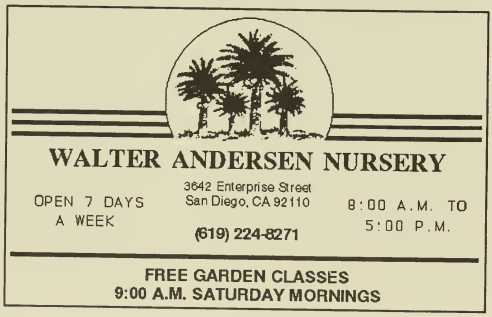
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
President: Carol Forman 858-278-2774
Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101-1622. Call 619-232-5762.

Deadline for JUL-AUG issue: May 15, 2000

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year? It should be "camera ready" (suitable to be sent to printer). The text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.5 (3½) inches wide by 2.25 (2¼) inches high. If done on a computer, please use a font that does not resemble typewriting.



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IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
25th Anniversay

FLORAL DEMONSTRATION
by
45th Headmaster Sen'ei Ikenobo
of the
Ikenobo Ikebana Society
Kyoto, Japan

May 13, 2000 at 2:00 p.m.
Shelter Pointe Hotel & Marina
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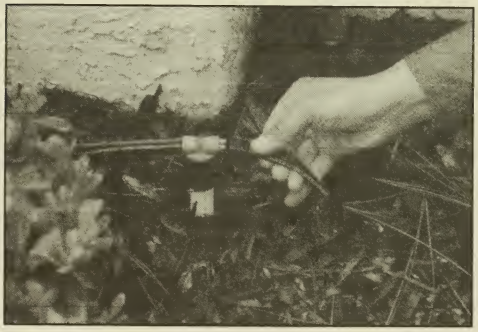
This is followed by further floral viewing, a social hour, dinner and entertainment

For tickets & additional information
telephone: (858) 270-5795 ♦ Mrs. Joanne Meredith



Monitor your irrigation system
to identify and fix problems promptly

San Diego Horticultural Society

Meetings 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30pm
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Satellite Wagering Bldg.
Free Admission – Everyone Welcome!

Join us for a guest speaker, plant raffle, plant display.
Meetings are open to all. Membership brings you:

- Monthly 20-page newsletter
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- Annual Garden Party

Next Meeting:
May 8: Gardens of Scotland: The Glorious Border

~ Special Presentation May 22, 7:30pm ~
A fun evening with author, columnist, TV host

FELDER RUSHING

"Lightening Up Don't Necessarily Mean Lowerin' Your Standards"

Tickets: $10.00 for SDHS members
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For reservations call (760) 630-7307. To order your tickets by mail send your check, a SASE, and a list of names of those attending, to: SDHS, 1781 Sunrise Drive, Vista, CA 92084.

For information call (760) 630-7307

FIRE BLIGHT OF ORNAMENTALS AND FRUITS

FIRE BLIGHT, ALSO KNOWN as pear blight, or simply blight, is a common and frequently destructive bacterial disease of plants in the rose family (*Rosaceae*). Pears and quinces are extremely susceptible. Apples, crab apples, and *Pyracantha* species are frequently damaged, also. Fire blight occasionally attacks hawthorn (*Crataegus* species). *Spiraea*, *Cotoneaster*, toyon (*Heteromeles* [formerly *Photinia*] species), juneberry or serviceberry (*Amelanchier* species), loquat, mountain ash (*Sorbus* species), and other related plants.

Development of the disease is favored by a combination of 70° to 85°F temperatures and high humidity caused by dew, rain, fog, or even irrigation—especially overhead irrigation.

SYMPTOMS

Fire blight is characterized by a sudden wilting, followed by shriveling and blackening of blossoms, tender shoots, and young fruits. The affected parts look as though they were scorched by fire—hence the name, fire blight. An infection may progress down a shoot and into the bark of large limbs, where dark, sunken cankers are formed. These cankers slowly enlarge and may eventually girdle the limb.

DISEASE CYCLE

The bacterium *Erwinia amylovora* that causes the disease survives the summer and winter in blighted twigs and cankers. During warm, moist, early spring weather, the bacteria ooze from the holdover cankers in small, milky, sticky drops. The bacteria are carried to blossoms and tender shoots by flies, ants, beetles, and other insects, and by splashing rain. Bees and flies play a major role in spreading fire blight from blossom to blossom, but the beehive is not a holdover source of the bacterium.

CONTROL

During the summer, prune out diseased twigs and branches. Cut well below the edge of the infected area. On large trees like pears, cut back 6 to 12 inches or more where possible. When cutting succulent tissues, sterilize tools between cuts to avoid further spread of the disease. A number of household disinfectants can be used for this.

Fire blight is usually much worse on succulent growth. Where the disease has been a problem, avoid excessive nitrogen fertilization combined with heavy irrigations and other cultural practices that promote rapid growth.

Blossoms are the most susceptible part of the plant. You can protect them from infection by copper-containing or streptomycin sprays. A minute amount of copper in the blossom is effective. A weak copper-containing spray at one-tenth the rate usually used on foliage—a ½-½-100 Bordeaux mixture spray, for example—successfully controls the disease on pears. You also can use streptomycin sprays at 100 parts per million. The number of applications needed depends on the blooming period. Make the first application when the average temperature (average of the maximum and minimum temperature for a 24 hour period) exceeds 60°F (15.5°C). Apply at 4- to 5-day intervals during periods of high humidity and until late bloom is over. For pears, this may mean five to twelve applications per season.

For more information about fire blight and other pear pests, refer to *Pear Pest Management*, priced publication 4086, or *Fungal, Bacterial and Certain Nonparasitic Diseases of Fruit and Nut Crops in California*, priced publication 4090.

From Cooperative Extension, University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

HOW TO CONSTRUCT AND DECORATE A BIRD FEEDER OR BIRDHOUSE FROM A GOURD

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK

9:30AM to 2:30PM

Bring a lunch, coffee will be provided

Call MARIE WALSH 619/298-5182

PLEASE PREREGISTER!

GOURD CRAFT CLASS — May 16, 2000

□ $20 member

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Materials Provided

Amount enclosed $ ..... . Make check payable to San Diego Floral Assoc.: SEND to San Diego Floral Assoc., 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101-1622

NAME

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only $10.00 (single membership) or $12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:

Vivian Follmer
SDCOS Membership
13127 Roundup
San Diego, CA 92129
(858) 538-6187

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS by Roland Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. The book has been available only at rare book stores until now. (Going Rate $65.00) Bill and Mike have donated the books to San Diego Floral Association. The books will sell for $14.50 (tax included). $10 of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at the San Diego Floral office in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. They can be mailed.

If you are a newcomer to San Diego you probably do not know about Roland Hoyt. He was one of our earliest landscape architects and is responsible for the landscaping of Mission Bay, the Community Concourse, and many noteworthy gardens around the city. At the time this book was written, there was no guide for Southern California that listed plants by their needs and requirements. It is still the most reliable guide available. The later half of the book is a writen description and sketch of each plant in alphabetical order. In recent years many scientific names have been changed but there is an updated nomeclature list at the end of the book. The original 1940 book was published as a pocketbook, but this is enlarged—it is a handsome hardback book 7" x 10½". The price of the book (tax included) is $14.50. Handling and postage is an additional $3.00.

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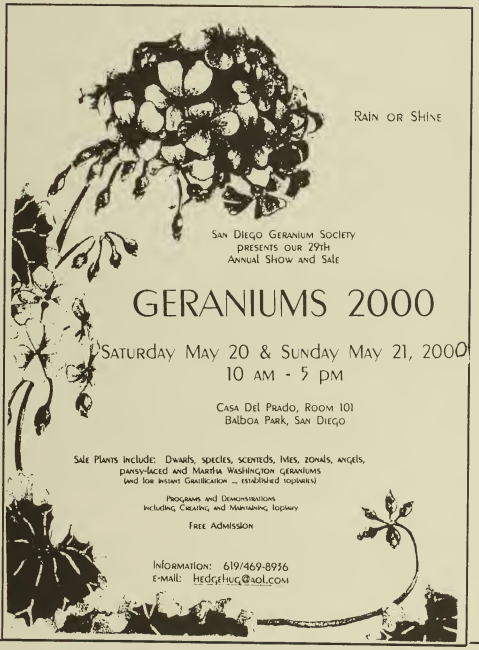
RAIN OR SHINE
SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
PRESENTS OUR 29TH
ANNUAL SHOW and SALE
GERANIUMS 2000
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10 AM - 5 PM
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KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is now available at the San Diego Floral Association office in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The book contains a plant index and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted.

Often known as the "Mother of Balboa Park," for over fifty years she devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how, in this book that is for sale in the San Diego Floral Office for $18.00 (tax included) — $15.00 (tax included, for members). If you wish a copy mailed to you, use the coupon below and enclose $3.00 for handling and mailing.

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